



BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1968

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	- Margaret H. F. Turnbull, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	- D. A. Pamphilon Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (SENIOR)	- J. Stocker, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR	- A. J. Benbow Cert. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I.

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BRIDGNORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Westgate,
Bridgnorth.

June 1969.

To: The Chairman and Councillors

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1968.

As in previous years the Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. D. A. Pamphilon, has been entirely responsible for the Sections dealing with Environmental Health, Housing and Supervision of Food. As he mentions in the foreword to his report, much necessary and worthwhile Public Health work continues to be neglected because of shortage of staff. Until another Additional Public Health Inspector is appointed to fill the vacancy which has now existed for over 2 years, only day-to-day matters can receive attention. This is not a very satisfactory state of affairs.

The health statistics for the year are all very satisfactory. The Birth Rate is considerably higher than the National average; the Death Rate and Infant Mortality Rate are well below.

Apart from Measles which affected 114 children during the second and third quarters of the year, the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases was pleasingly low. In the latter part of the year vaccination against Measles became generally available for all susceptible children up to the age of 15 years. It is to be hoped that this will eventually succeed in eradicating a childhood illness which can be severe and which can have serious complications.

The second phase of the Joint High Level Water Supply Scheme was completed during the year. It is greatly to be hoped that Phase 3 will not be too long delayed.

Stottesdon Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works were completed, as was the extension to the Much Wenlock works. It was hoped that the Homer Scheme would be finished early in 1969. Difficulties in maintaining satisfactory effluents from the Broseley, Eardington and Highley works continued. Surface irrigation of the final effluent from the Stanley Lane Works effected some improvement in its quality; unfortunately not all the effluent can be so treated.

The Council building programme went ahead well, 75 dwellings at Broseley and 20 at Highley being completed during the year. It is hoped that further building at Much Wenlock and the first phase of re-development at Alveley will start during 1969. Private development continued at a high rate. 427 units of accommodation were completed during the year and a further 250 were under construction at 31st December.

In conclusion I should like to express my appreciation to all who have assisted in the preparation of this Report and in particular to Mr. D. A. Pamphilon and Miss C. M. Bryan.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

MARGARET H. F. TURNBULL
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION 'A'

STATISTICS

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres	125,668
Estimated Population (Mid-1968)	31,090
Number of inhabited houses (at 31.12.68.)	10,843
Rateable Value of the District (at 1.4.69.)	£1,021,102
Estimated Produce of 1d. Rate (at 1.4.69.)	£3,941

VITAL STATISTICS

1. POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population of the District at mid-1968 was 31,090, an increase of 90 on the corresponding estimate for 1967. The natural increase in population, i.e. the number of live births less the number of deaths was 293.

2. BIRTHS

(a) Live Births

There were 595 live births in the area in 1968 of which 35 were illegitimate (5.9%)

The Birth Rate for the year (standardised for comparison with the corresponding Rate for other areas) was 19.9 per 1,000 of the population. This is well above the average Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1968 of 16.9.

A more detailed analysis of the birth figures is given below:-

LIVE BIRTHS 1968

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total Live Births
Male	268	18	286
Female	292	17	309
Total	560	35	595
Rate per 1,000 of population	18.0	1.1	19.1

Crude Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population	-	19.1
Standardised Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population	-	19.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales, 1968	-	16.9

(b) Stillbirths

There were 11 Stillbirths in the District in 1968, giving a Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births (i.e. live births and stillbirths combined) of 18.1. This is slightly above the national average figure for 1968 of 14.0.

3. DEATHS

There were 302 deaths in the area during 1968, the various causes of which are detailed in the Annual Return of the Registrar General below.

The classification of deaths is rather different from that of previous years, but Ischaemic Heart Disease, i.e. Coronary thrombosis and angina pectoris remained the cause of the greatest number of deaths (25%). Malignant disease accounted for 58 deaths (19%), 13 of which were due to lung cancer.

The standardised Death Rate per 1,000 of population was 10.5 which is slightly below the national average of 11.9.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1968

The Registrar General's Annual Return gives the causes of death in the area during 1968 as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	1	1
Other Tuberculosis	-	1	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	1	4
lung, bronchus	12	1	13
breast	-	4	4
uterus	-	1	1
Leukaemia	1	1	2
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	20	14	34
Benign & unspecified neoplasms	2	-	2
Diabetes mellitus	2	2	4
Anaemias	1	-	1
Mental disorders	-	1	1
Other disorders of nervous system	2	2	4
Chronic Rheumatic heart disease	-	1	1
Hypertension disease	1	3	4
Ischaemic heart disease	49	27	76
Other Forms of heart disease	7	13	20
Cerebrovascular disease	18	24	42
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	5	8
Influenza	2	-	2
Pneumonia	8	9	17
Bronchitis and emphysema	12	-	12
Asthma	-	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	1	6
Peptic ulcer	1	2	3
Other diseases of digestive system	2	4	6
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	2	-	2
Congenital anomalies	1	1	2
Birth injury, difficult labour etc.	1	3	4
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	-	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	2	-	2
Motor vehicle accidents	8	-	8
All other accidents	3	3	6
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1
All other external causes	1	-	1
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All causes	176	126	302
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4. INFANT MORTALITY

There were 9 infant deaths in 1968, 7 of which occurred within the first week of life.

The Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births was 15.1 which is considerably lower than the Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales of 18.0.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE 1968

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	5	-	5
Female	4	-	4
Total	9	-	9

Infant Mortality Rate; per 1,000 live births - 15.1
Infant Mortality Rate, per 1,000 live births - 18.0
(England and Wales 1968)

5. MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths related to pregnancy or childbirth in 1968.

SECTION 'B'

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES

All hospitals in the area are administered by Birmingham Regional Hospital Board, through its Hospital Management Committees.

The general hospitals most easily accessible to inhabitants of the Rural District are those at Bridgnorth, Kidderminster, Shrewsbury and Wolverhampton. All provide out-patient and in-patient facilities. Similar facilities are also provided at the smaller hospitals at Broseley and Much Wenlock.

Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the isolation hospitals at Wolverhampton or Shrewsbury, and patients with Tuberculosis receive initial treatment at Copthorne Hospital or Cross Houses Hospital.

The chronic sick requiring hospital treatment are generally admitted to one of the following Institutions: New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton; East Hamlet Hospital, Ludlow; Shifnal Hospital; The Beeches Hospital, Ironbridge.

2. GENERAL MEDICAL, DENTAL, PHARMACEUTICAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY OPHTHALMIC SERVICES

These services are administered by the Salop Executive Council, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury.

3. LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES

Salop County Council, as Local Health Authority, is responsible for the provision and administration of the following services:-

Health Centres (none as yet in this area)
Care of mothers and young children
Domiciliary Midwifery
Health visiting
Home nursing
Vaccination and Immunisation
Ambulance Services
Prevention of illness, care and after-care
Domestic help service.

(a) Child Health

There are four Child Health Clinics in the District where regular sessions are held as follows:-

Northgate, Bridgnorth - Mondays: 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.
1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Thursdays: 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Youth Club, Highley - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Child Health Centre, Broseley - 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursdays: 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.

British Legion Hall, Much Wenlock - 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.

(b) Welfare Foods

The National Welfare Foods (National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and Vitamin 'A' and 'D' tablets) are available at the Welfare Centres during Clinic hours, and at variously conveniently situated distribution points throughout the District.

(c) Health Visiting, Home Nursing, Domiciliary Midwifery

The District is well served by full-time and part-time staff of the County Health Department.

(d) Vaccination and Immunisation

Under the County Council's Scheme, Vaccination against Smallpox, Poliomyelitis and Measles and Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus may be carried out by arrangement with a general practitioner, or at any Child Health Centre, by appointment.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis is offered each year to all children aged 11-13 years who are found by preliminary testing to require this protection. Only very few parents refuse their consent for this procedure, which is carried out at the schools.

(e) Ambulance Service

The Central Ambulance Department for the County is in Shrewsbury (Telephone No. Shrewsbury 6331) to which all requests for an ambulance should be made.

(f) Domestic Help Service

The service of a domestic help is available, in the words of the Act, for "any person who is ill, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age". Enquiries regarding this service are dealt with at the Domestic Help Office, Bridgnorth Welfare Centre (Telephone No. Bridgnorth 3078) on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 2.15 and 4.30 p.m.

SECTION 'C'

The Senior Public Health Inspector, Mr. D. A. Pamphilon, M.A.P.H.I., reports as follows:-

As a preface to last year's Report I referred to the vacancy which had existed in the Department for an Additional Public Health Inspector since 1st April 1967. No change can be reported in this position and the problems then forecast regarding important aspects of the Department's work being neglected can only have been aggravated.

It should be of concern to the Council, which prides itself on being progressive, that the Department's activities and field of work has been restricted to current problems.

Mention has therefore been made in the various sections of the Report where it is considered that these shortcomings are becoming most obvious.

WATER SUPPLIES

The responsibility for providing mains water supplies to the Rural District is that of the East Shropshire Water Board and the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.

EAST SHROPSHIRE WATER BOARD

Joint High Level Water Supply Scheme

The area to be supplied by this Scheme comprises the upland Parishes to the West of the District. Water is taken from the Eilan Aqueduct and pumped to a storage reservoir at Coreley from which it is fed by gravity to the distribution system after chlorination.

However, the Ditton Priors and Monkhopton areas are supplied with water from the Board's service at Stoke St. Milborough. The second phase of this distribution system has now been completed allowing the local sources at Noenton and Chetton to be abandoned.

Although Phase 3 of the Scheme has been delayed, it is hoped that the early completion of the Scheme will be achieved. It is appreciated that the supply of water to an area such as this, of sparse population, requires great capital outlay with little financial return. Here it must be emphasised that this Council was committed to this course of action and to the provision of the additional branch mains, the trunk mains in themselves not providing adequate coverage of the area.

Low Level Water Supply Scheme

The above Scheme was completed by the Rural District in 1962 and now serves some 20 Parishes within the District.

Water for the Scheme is taken from the Eilan Aqueduct at four points where it is chlorinated and distributed by gravity, fluorides being added to the water at source by Birmingham Corporation.

I am informed by the Engineer to the East Shropshire Water Board that investigation has confirmed that a severe encrustation is occurring in the sections of the Scheme constructed of unlined cast iron pipes. As a result the capacity of these mains is being affected. It has therefore been necessary to supply into these sections harder water from the Stoke St. Milborough source to prevent further encrustation. The areas at present receiving this water are Morville, Nordley and Astley Abbots, and possibly the Eardington area later this year.

Huch Wenlock

Water is supplied from a borehole situated off the Broseley road where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at the rear of the Lady Forester Memorial

Hospital. The supply is distributed by a balanced system.

Broseley

Water is supplied from a borehole at Beckbury where it is chlorinated and pumped to a reservoir at Posenhall and distributed by gravity.

WOLVERHAMPTON WATER UNDERTAKING

Bridgnorth Borough

Water is supplied from a borehole at Rindleford where it is chlorinated and pumped to reservoirs at The Hermitage and Ludlow Road from whence it is distributed by gravity to the town.

Claverley, Worfield and Rudge

These Parishes are within the Statutory Area of the Wolverhampton Water Undertaking and the main centres of population are well served. The water comes from boreholes at Hilton where it is chlorinated and distributed throughout the Parishes.

Reports from the Wolverhampton Water Engineer show that water supplied to the District is adequately chlorinated and satisfactory in quality.

PURITY OF SUPPLIES

(a) Mains Supplies

Regular routine sampling of all public mains supplies is carried out to ensure that chlorination has been effective and that no pollution has occurred in the course of distribution.

Samples are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Shrewsbury for bacteriological examination. A summary of the reports received during 1968 is as follows:-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Elan Aqueduct (not chlorinated)	21	4
Low Level Supply (after chlorination)	108	3
Broseley	6	Nil
Much Wenlock	10	Nil
Wolverhampton Water Undertaking	30	2

The unsatisfactory samples received from the distribution systems were immediately brought to the attention of the appropriate water authority who undertook remedial measures, after which further check samples proved satisfactory.

(b) Private Supplies

Many areas and individual properties still rely on private water supplies. It is unfortunate, therefore, that because of shortage of staff more emphasis cannot be given to the sampling and improvement of these supplies. It is considered that such work would be most worthwhile and beneficial to those users who are unlikely to be able in the foreseeable future to connect to public water mains.

It is known from experience in the sampling of private supplies in this area that spring and well supplies are usually bacteriologically unfit.

36 samples were taken from private supplies and, of these, 31 samples proved on analysis to be unsatisfactory for drinking purposes. As a precautionary measure householders using polluted supplies were advised to boil all water before using it for drinking purposes.

PREMISES RECEIVING WATER FROM PUBLIC PIPED SUPPLIES AT 31ST DECEMBER 1968

	No. of Houses <u>31.12.68.</u>	Connected to Public Mains <u>31.12.68.</u>
Acton Round	42	7
Alveley	488	402
Astley Abbots	160	109
Aston Botterell	27	5
Aston Eyre	24	-
Barrow	-	-
Billingsley	37	33
Bridgnorth	-	-
Broseley	-	-
Burwarton	45	4
Chelmarsh	154	128
Chetton	116	55
Claverley	530	435
Cleobury North	38	-
Deuxhill	9	7
Ditton Priors	189	4
Eardington	125	105
Easthope	28	-
Farlow	67	4
Glazeley	9	5
Highley	944	933
Kinlet	185	160
Middleton Scriven	27	12
Monkhopton	58	20
Norville	121	65
Much Wenlock	-	-
Neen Savage	107	93
Meenton	31	11
Quatt	91	46
Romsley	38	18
Rudge	36	5
Shipton	42	-
Sidbury	14	2
Stanton Long	53	1
Stockton	-	-
Stottesdon	271	159
Sutton Maddock	-	-
Tasley	75	74
Upton Cressett	13	-
Worfield	691	576

N.B. No figures are available for those areas added to the District as a result of the Salop Orders 1966.

In addition to the above a further 44 properties in the Parish of Worfield are served by private estate mains which are fed by a bulk supply from the East Shropshire Water Board borehole at Harrington.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are ten public sewerage schemes within the Council's area, at Alveley, Bridgnorth, Broseley (2), Claverley, Eardington, Highley, Much Wenlock, Stottesdon and Worfield.

Alveley

The third stage of this Scheme, which includes a length of sewer to serve properties in the Woodlands area has been deferred because of the proposed development of intervening land. A serious public health nuisance exists in the ditch which receives the various septic tank effluents from properties in this area. It is hoped that the opportunity will be afforded for this part of the Scheme to receive early consideration.

Bridgnorth

In an effort to improve the effluent from the Stanley Lane Works a Scheme of surface irrigation of the final effluent on adjoining land was completed during the year. Preliminary samples of the effluent so treated have shown a marked improvement. Unfortunately not all the effluent produced by the works can be so treated.

A further disposal works is planned at The Slads, Eardington which should both relieve the situation of overloading at Stanley Lane and make provision for other areas not previously catered for, namely Quatford and Danesford which are referred to later in the Report.

Broseley

As previously reported, difficulty is experienced in maintaining satisfactory effluents from the works at both Fish House and Dark Lane.

However, it is anticipated that this position together with other unsatisfactory aspects of sewage disposal in Broseley will be resolved when all sewage can be treated at the Telford sewage disposal works at Gitchfield.

Eardington

These works are still overloaded and the effluent produced is on occasions unsatisfactory. It would appear that this position cannot be improved until The Slads Works, capable of dealing with sewage from this village, are brought into commission.

Highley

The rapid development of this Village has resulted in these works now operating at beyond design capacity and being overloaded.

It would therefore seem that the report received from the Consulting Engineers advising an increase in size of the works should be implemented as a matter of urgency.

The Planning and Building Regulations Committee adopted a policy during the year of not accepting any further proposals for residential development owing to the inadequate sewerage and sewage disposal position in the village of Highley.

Homer

It is hoped the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the village of Homer will be completed during the early part of 1969, when the many public health nuisances now caused by defective and unsatisfactory drainage systems may be resolved.

Much Wenlock

The Contract (Stage II) for the extension of the sewage disposal works which commenced in 1966 was completed during the year.

Stage III of the Scheme, namely the renewal of the sewers where necessary still remains, although it is anticipated that at least part of this stage will soon be authorised. This will relieve certain properties of flooding, and abate the serious public health nuisance which is caused.

Claverley and Worfield

Both these works continue to give satisfactory effluents.

The Worfield plant has now reached its design capacity and may eventually be abandoned and the sewage treated at a combined works with Hilton and Wyken.

Certain works of repair and improvement were completed at the Claverley works during the year, principally to prevent access of infiltration water.

Stottesdon

The Scheme was completed during the year so enabling the Council to dispense with the septic tank serving the Station Road Council houses and also

the small plant serving the flats etc.

It is hoped that householders will take advantage of this long awaited amenity and so relieve the village of many of its public health problems attributable to sewage disposal.

PROGRAMMED SCHEMES

Ackleton and Stableford

Tenders for this Scheme were invited and received during the year and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval. However in July the Minister advised the Council that they were not satisfied on the urgent necessity for the Scheme.

It is hoped that a Scheme which has advanced in the planning and design stage to such an extent will not be held up too long.

Morville

It is hoped that further progress in providing a sewerage scheme for this village may be achieved in the near future.

Hilton

The Council had hoped to provide a combined scheme to serve Hilton, Worfield and Wyken. However, no progress has been made during the year in securing a suitable site for the disposal works.

Chorley

A scheme for this village has been prepared in draft although no definite date can be forecast when it may reach fruition.

Danesford and Quatford

It is proposed that these areas be sewered and the sewage treated after pumping at the future Slads Disposal Works. It can again be reported that a serious public health nuisance exists at Quatford where pollution of the river occurs by untreated sewage.

FUTURE SCHEMES AND POLICY

It is essential that the Council continue to appreciate their commitments with regard to the provision of sewerage schemes throughout the District and that they continue to follow their programme with the utmost vigour.

In addition to the Schemes previously mentioned the Council have instructed their Consulting Engineers to prepare outline schemes for the following villages and hamlets:-

Astley Abbots
Aston Botterell
Brockton
Burwarton
Button Oak
Ditton Priors
Oreton
Tasley

Other areas of the District must now be considered such as Chelmarsh and the Heathton/Draycott area where public health nuisances exist owing to the difficulties experienced in draining away the effluent from septic tanks.

A considerable number of properties exist in the Norton/Sutton Maddock areas and a scheme will no doubt be necessary in this area in the future, the present system of sewage treatment being rather primitive in many cases.

As the provision of mains water supplies continues in the High Level areas of the District experience has shown that the need for sewerage schemes will become much more urgent.

A change of policy was made by the Council during the year resolving that in all future sewerage schemes laid in Highways, lateral connections be provided where possible from the main sewer to the highway boundary. It is hoped that this will encourage the connection of dwellings to new sewers.

PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A cesspool/septic tank emptying service for the District will be commenced during the forthcoming year. This is a service which has long been needed and will no doubt be appreciated by the many persons who have to rely on septic tanks and cesspools for the drainage of their properties.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The refuse collection service is by the Council's direct labour, all parishes receiving a weekly collection.

A trial was carried out during the year into the use of paper sacks to replace refuse bins. This proved successful and the first stage of a five year scheme was implemented resulting in approximately 20% of properties in the District now being served by this method. The further extension of this more hygienic service will ultimately provide a "back door collection" throughout the District.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping on land, the tips being situated at Alveley, Broseley, Bridgnorth, Highley and Stretton Westwood.

Although controlled tipping in the strict sense of the work has not been achieved an improvement in the maintenance and the covering of the tips has been made possible by the purchase of mechanical equipment.

No further progress can be reported regarding more alternative methods of refuse disposal for the area, although this would appear to be the Council's ultimate objective.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

A local authority is responsible, by the Provisions of Part I of the Factory Act 1961, for ensuring the adequacy and suitability of sanitary accommodation in factories where mechanical power is used. In the case of factories where mechanical power is not used the general working conditions are also supervised.

At the end of 1968 there were 81 factories on the Register, all using mechanical power.

It has proved possible to carry out inspections of only 16 factories during the year as time had also to be devoted to administering other legislation. Visits are of course also made to factories by H.M. Factory Inspectorate who refer any relevant contraventions of the Act to this Authority (see Statutory Report on last page of Report).

In addition, all plans of new factories or conversions are scrutinised by the Health Department in order to ensure that they comply with relevant legislation.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

This Act makes provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed in Offices or Shops premises and certain railway premises.

There are now 291 registered premises employing 732 persons in the Council's area, some 70 visits being made to these premises for the administration of the Act and its relevant regulations during the year.

Generally speaking all registered premises have now received an initial inspection when the various provisions and requirements of the legislation were brought to the occupier's attention. It is of course essential that such premises receive further visits at regular intervals in order to ensure that works required have been completed and the provisions of the Act are being complied with.

One of the principal objects of the Act is to ensure that employees work in conditions as free as possible from the hazards of accidents which may be relevant to their occupation.

AGRICULTURE, (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT 1956

Sections 3 and 5 of the above Act place a duty on Local Authorities in connection with the provision of sanitary conveniences on farms where agricultural workers are employed.

Specific visits are not made to agricultural holdings for this purpose but when such premises are visited, the subject is borne in mind.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

The above Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by the local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats and dogs is carried on. The Act came into operation on 1st January 1964 and 5 establishments are licensed by the Council.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

Visits have been made to various factories when excessive emissions of dark smoke have been noted and the management's attention drawn to their responsibilities under the above Act. On all these occasions the emission has been caused by break downs in boiler plant or carelessness by the attendant and the ready co-operation of the firms concerned has been achieved without resorting to legal proceedings.

THE ALKALI ETC. WORKS ORDER 1958

All factories carrying on processes which are registerable under the above legislation are administered by the Alkali Inspectorate of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

A particular factory in the District has caused much concern to residents in its immediate vicinity although regular observations by the Health Department have not shown a smoke nuisance as defined in the Clean Air Act 1956 to exist. A new treatment plant has been installed and although it has had many teething troubles, it is hoped it will soon resolve the problem.

The co-operation and advice of the Alkali Inspectorate is acknowledged and appreciated.

PEST CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, required a Local Authority to inspect all premises in their District and to ensure that any infestations of rats and mice are dealt with by the Authority (or by the occupier in the case of trade and agricultural premises).

All Council owned properties (including tips and sewage disposal works) are regularly inspected and treated when infestations are found.

Parts of the parishes of Ditton Priors, Stanton Long, Shipton and Easthope are in the "Control Belt" which surrounds that area of the Shropshire/Montgomeryshire border where Warfarin resistance exists. During 1968 resistant rats were found to exist on seven farms in Monkhopton and Cleobury North and these were eradicated with acute acting poisons. It is suspected that these outbreaks occurred as a result of the enforced inactivity by Ministry Rodent Operators in the Control Belt during the Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak of 1967/68.

As a support exercise to the Ministry's work in the area acute acting poisons are now being used in the Western parishes rather than Warfarin in an effort to ensure that resistant rats are kept to a minimum.

Unfortunately this type of control is more costly to the Council as treatments take longer and extreme care has to be exercised in the use of these more toxic poisons, but by carrying out this work now it is hoped to ensure that rats which are resistant to Warfarin are contained.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

There are now 1204 caravans stationed on 18 licensed multiple sites within the District. 31 of these on 2 sites are residential caravans, the remainder being used only for holiday purposes.

A site of 22 caravans in the Parish of Sutton Maddock which was not licensed when the area came under this Council's jurisdiction on 1st April 1967 has now been cleared of all caravans.

Various improvements have been made on holiday sites especially on two situated in the Borough of Bridgnorth and improved amenities are now available.

The Council gave consideration during the year to the provision of a Council site for the use of touring caravans. It has long been felt that such a site is needed and would provide an amenity to caravans passing through, or wishing to visit the area.

GYPSIES AND OTHER TRAVELLERS

The District was less troubled by itinerant travellers and tinkers during the year but the more regular gypsy families still use the area either for trade or casual farm work.

The Caravan Act 1968 requires County Councils to provide sites for caravan dwellers and it is hoped that such a site may be provided for a very limited number of caravans in this area.

The Council have provided housing accommodation in the area for a gypsy family who had become resident. The venture although something of an experiment would appear to be proving highly successful, with the family responding to and enjoying the advantages and security of living in a house.

SWIMMING POOLS

There is one privately owned open air swimming pool in the area which is open to the public and is also used by organised parties of school children. The water is supplied from a borehole and is treated by chlorination, filtration and aeration. In addition there are 6 school swimming pools in the area.

The swimming pool owned by the Bridgnorth Borough Council was closed during the year as it was not considered an economic proposition to bring it up to the standard required by the Council's Swimming Pool Byelaws.

The Department has continued to carry out both regular sampling and testing of swimming bath water during the year. This service has enabled the persons

responsible for these pools to achieve a better maintenance and quality of water.

Results of samples taken are shown below:-

	<u>Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Swancote	12	11	1
Apley Park School	13	10	3
Worfield C. of E. School	10	5	5
Bridgnorth Secondary - Boys	6	1	5
Much Wenlock Secondary	10	8	2
Cotsbrook Hall School	1	1	-
City of Coventry School	5	-	5
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Totals	57	36	21
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VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

The following list shows the number of visits and inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors throughout the year and also indicates the nature of the work and where emphasis has had to be given.

There were 310 complaints and requests for help and advice received by the Department during the year.

Housing - Public Health Acts	261
Housing Acts	296
Rent Act	2
Applications	131
Council Houses	75
Problem Families	95
Revisits to property under notice	48
Interviews with owners etc.	44
Drainage	269
Refuse Tips	53
Sewage Works	26
Water Supply - General	58
Samples	220
Rodent Control - Domestic	28
Trade	21
Farms	10
Factories Act	16
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	70
Meat Inspection - Slaughterhouse	1,420
Food and Drugs - Catering	56
Retail Shops	114
Licensed Premises	114
Butchers	35
Bakehouses	11
Fried Fish Shops	10
Ice cream	33
Ice cream samples	94
Poultry Dressing	24
Market stalls	43
Food and Drugs	56
Schools	14
Swimming baths	48
Infectious Diseases - Enquiries	76
Houses disinfected	-
Verminous premises	21
Keeping of animals	6
Offensive accumulations	10
Miscellaneous	143
Caravans	128
Caravan sites	41
Animal Boarding Establishments	4
Clean Air Act	77
Noise abatement	26
Dust nuisance	-
Street cleansing	8
Public conveniences	18
Delivery vehicles	5
Village Halls	12
	<hr/>
	4,370
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SECTION 'D'

HOUSING

(Figures at 31st December 1968)

Number of inhabited houses	10,843
Number of Council owned houses	2,242
Number of houses completed: a) Council	95
b) Private	427
Number of applications for Council houses	684
Number of houses under construction: a) Council	Nil
b) Private	250

SCHEDULE A

The general housing situation existing in the District at 31st December 1968 may be summarised as follows:-

<u>Grades at</u> <u>31.12.63.</u>		<u>Grades at</u> <u>31.12.67.</u>	<u>Grades at</u> <u>31.12.68.</u>
2,281	Grade 1 - Houses which are in all respects fit for human habitation	2,803	3,111
768	Grade 2 - Houses which require minor repairs and/or additional facilities	761	730
898	Grade 3 - Houses which lack basic amenities, require extensive repairs and/or structural alteration but, it is considered, can be rendered fit at reasonable expense.	779	739
383	Grade 4 - Houses which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be rendered fit at reasonable expense.	322	305
<u>4,330</u>		<u>4,665</u>	<u>4,885</u>
	Private houses in Barrow, Bridgnorth, Broseley, Much Wenlock & Shifnal (Grades not available)	4,125	
	Council houses in Barrow, Bridgnorth, Broseley, Much Wenlock and Shifnal	1,543	
		<u>10,333</u>	
	Add: Private houses built in year	427	
	Council houses built in year	104	
		<u>10,864</u>	
	Less: Demolitions	15	
	Resulting from conversions	<u>6</u>	21
	Total houses at 31.12.68.	<u>10,843</u>	

It is essential that all houses within the District be graded in order that the quality of housing in the area may be appreciated and progress noted year to year. Only limited work in this field has again been possible and it is considered that no notable progress can be made until there is a full staff establishment in the Health Department.

SCHEDULE B

POST WAR COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Completed in year ending 31.12.68.</u>	<u>Under Construction 31.12.68.</u>	<u>Total Completed Post-war</u>
Alveley	-	-	50
Barrow	-	-	12
Bridgnorth	-	-	614
Broseley	75	-	459
Chelmarsh	-	-	12
Chetton	-	-	6
Claverley	-	-	44
Ditton Priors	-	-	20
Eardington	-	-	16
Eudon George	-	-	6
Highley	20	-	170
Kinlet	-	-	14
Monkhopton	-	-	14
Morville	-	-	12
Neen Savage	-	-	10
Neenton	-	-	8
Shipton	-	-	6
Stockton	-	-	6
Stottesdon	-	-	10
Sutton Maddock	-	-	14
Tasley	-	-	6
Much Wenlock	-	-	134
Worfield	-	-	88
	<u>95</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>1,731</u>

PRE-WAR COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

Bridgnorth	114
Broseley	89
Highley	56
Much Wenlock	82
Sutton Maddock	<u>7</u>
Total pre-war	348
Other Council owned houses including houses converted to flats, other houses and slum clearance properties	154
Flats leased with shops	<u>10</u>
	2,243

There were no Council houses under construction during the year.

FUTURE COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING PROGRAMME

It is anticipated that work towards providing the following units of accommodation will be commenced in 1969.

Alveley

First phase of development consisting of 21 bungalows, a community centre, a warden's house and 12 houses.

Much Wenlock

First phase of development consisting of 10 bungalows, 8 houses and the repair and improvement of the half-timbered High Causeway Cottages.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

The improvement of houses by the giving of discretionary grants of 50% has been a policy of the Council since 1953.

The results achieved by this policy over the years have been well worthwhile but nevertheless much work in this field remains to be done. It must be of concern to the Council to know that approximately a third of the houses in the rural areas of the District still lack the basic amenities of a bath and there are many others relying on primitive pail closets etc.

The future of these houses and the amenities available to their inhabitants remain as a major task which can only be resolved by a planned programme of encouraging owners to take advantage of the grants available. It is hoped that it will be possible when the Health Department has a full establishment for such work to receive priority over the next few years.

Housing Acts 1959/64

Discretionary Grants

	<u>Received</u>		<u>Approved</u>		<u>Rejected</u>	
	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
(a) Number of applications	19	5	18	5	1	Nil
(b) Number of dwellings involved	23	5	22	5	1	Nil

	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>
Number of above applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers	11	2
Average total cost per dwelling	£1972	£1943

Standard Grants

Number of applications received	41	41
Number approved	39	41
Average cost per property	£197	£222

UNFIT HOUSES

During the year only 7 individually unfit houses were dealt with under Sections 16 and 17 of the Housing Act 1957, as follows:-

Demolition Orders	3
Closing Orders	3
Undertaking to make fit	1

A further 13 unfit houses were demolished by informal action and four previously Closed were made fit.

No action was possible in the re-housing of the tenants and the demolition of the properties in the Alveley (Nos. 2 & 3 Clearance Areas) Compulsory Purchase Order (No. 2) 1965. However, work is to commence on the new housing development during 1969 when this position can be resolved.

It has still not been possible for the Council to adopt a programme dealing with the unfit houses in the District. The collation of the necessary information on unfit houses in order that a programme can be adopted by the Council must be allied to the work necessary in dealing with the improvement of houses.

COUNCIL HOUSING

(The figures relating to applications have been provided by the Housing Manager)

At the end of the year the housing application position could be summarised as follows:-

Applications	442
Applications for old persons accommodation	145
Applications from outside District	97
	<hr/>
	684
	<hr/>

In addition, there are 142 applications from tenants wishing to transfer to other Council accommodation.

It will be seen from these figures that 25% of the applications excluding those from outside the District and those requiring transfers, are from persons requiring old persons accommodation, however only some 7% of the Council's housing stock is designed for old persons. The provision of such accommodation in the Council's house building programme is therefore a much needed priority over the other types of dwelling in the future.

Such accommodation would allow transfers to take place of older tenants who are now in "under-occupied dwellings" and provide housing for persons who might be displaced by future slum clearance projects.

During the year the Council agreed to the modernisation of some pre-war Council houses, although regretfully some reluctance has been experienced where tenants have not wished to pay an increased rent for improved amenities or to have central heating installed. No doubt the Council may wish to consider adopting a policy in the future that where such houses become vacant such improvement works should be carried out before the house is re-let.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODSSLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the District, situated at Bridgnorth, Broseley, Claverley and Eardington.

The Eardington slaughterhouse was extended during the year to provide more hanging space, refrigeration, and improved facilities for killing and dressing pigs.

The slaughterhouses continue to be managed satisfactorily by their owners and comply with the requirements of the relevant regulations relating to Hygiene and Prevention of Cruelty.

All animals slaughtered in the District during 1968 were inspected.

The total number of animals inspected was 11,863 as compared with 11,756 during the previous year.

The table below gives details of all carcasses inspected and condemned at the slaughterhouses during 1968:-

	Cattle including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed and inspected	1,209	87	7,476	3,091	Nil
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcass condemned	4	Nil	11	7	Nil
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	59	Nil	140	72	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	5.21	Nil	2.09	2.55	Nil
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcass condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcass of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.06	Nil
CYSTICERCOSIS	No case of Cysticercosis was found during the year.				

The total quantity of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was 1 ton, 17 cwt. 3 qtrs. 12 lbs.

Mention has been made in previous reports of the significant drop in recent years in cases of Tuberculosis, only two cases of localised Tuberculosis being diagnosed in pigs during 1968.

However, there appears to have been a disturbing rise in parasitic infections in all animals over the last few years, resulting in a significant economic loss to the trade. It would seem that there is a need for much research work to be done in this direction by the Veterinary and Pharmaceutical

professions, which could no doubt be usefully supplemented by the results of post mortem examinations in the slaughterhouses.

The facilities afforded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Veterinary Laboratory were utilised during the year and their opinions on the various specimens submitted were appreciated. Nevertheless all concerned with meat inspection must look forward to the day when quicker diagnosis of bacterial infection may be possible.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All meat found to be unfit for human consumption at the slaughterhouse is removed by an approved knacker, in accordance with the Meat (Staining and Sterilising) Regulations 1960.

The public must appreciate that when they buy stained meat from pet shops it is unfit for human consumption. All too often it is taken home in the shopping basket to the kitchen where working surfaces and utensils are likely to be contaminated.

The question must be asked, is it not time that all such meat should be sterilised before sale, and may we then lessen the number of Salmonella and other such infections.

FOOD INSPECTION

Again during the year many complaints were made regarding either food which appeared to the purchaser to be unfit or food which contained foreign bodies. Where appropriate such complaints after preliminary investigations were forwarded to the County Council. A summary of the action taken is included later in the Report. In the remaining instances warning letters were sent to either the producers or the shopkeepers.

The following foods inspected in shops and school or restaurant kitchens were found to be unfit for human consumption and were satisfactorily disposed of:-

	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qtrs.</u>	<u>Lbs.</u>
Meat at retail shops	2	2	16
Canned meat, fruit and vegetables	11	1	4
Wet fish	1	3	23
Other foods	2	1	1
Total	17	3	16

In addition to the above, the following frozen foods were surrendered as a result of breakdowns and electricity cuts affecting refrigerators and deep freeze cabinets:-

	<u>Meat</u>	<u>Fish</u>	<u>Vegetables</u>	<u>Fruit</u>	<u>Pastry</u>	<u>Ice-Cream</u>
Packets	188	223	114	2	54	160

POULTRY DRESSING PREMISES

There are now five premises carrying on the regular business of dressing poultry for sale.

It is only possible to carry out periodic visits to these premises for the purposes of ensuring they comply with food hygiene legislation, it not being possible to carry out regular inspections of all poultry dressed at such premises. This is particularly disturbing having regard to the comparatively high incidence of Salmonella infections which are being found in dressed poultry throughout the Country.

FOOD PREMISES AND FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 require all who are engaged in the handling of food for sale to maintain satisfactory standards of cleanliness in the carrying out of their work and to guard against contamination of food.

The role of the Public Health Inspector in administering this legislation must on all but the rarest occasions be one of an educational character rather than enforcement. It is therefore necessary that visits to food premises should be frequent when any lessening of standards can be readily noticed and brought to the food handlers attention.

It is of course unfortunate that in the majority of cases young persons enter the food trade without any training whatsoever. It was therefore pleasing when an opportunity was given to the Department to give a talk on the subject to school leavers. It is considered that this is a field of work where much more emphasis should be given, but whilst the Department is short staffed this and more progressive policies in food hygiene and food control are not possible.

(a) Type of Food Premises in the Area

1. Butchers Shops	24
2. Fried Fish Shops	8
3. Bakehouses	5
4. Licensed Premises	109
5. Licensed Clubs	15
6. Catering Premises	38
7. General Provision Stores	134
8. Schools	33
9. Schools (with kitchens)	19
10. Poultry Dressing Establishments	5

(b) Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955

1. Manufacturers of preserved foods	15
2. Ice-cream	85

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

The following table shows the results obtained from the 89 samples of ice-cream which were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination:-

<u>Grades</u>				<u>Total</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	
71	13	3	2	89

As a guide to interpreting the above results, it is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1; 80% into Grades 1 and 2; not more than 20% into Grade 3 and none into Grade 4.

In the case of those samples which were found to be in Grade IV follow up visits were made and advice given to the retailers on correct storage and handling procedures.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

The Food and Drugs Authority for this area is the Salop County Council and the following is a report received of the work carried out in this area by the Officers of that Authority during 1968:-

MILK SAMPLES

Pasteurised	24
Channel Islands Pasteurised	14
Untreated Farm Bottled	13
Untreated Channel Islands	11
Farm Bottled	
Untreated Bottled	2
Sterilised	5
Bulk Milk Exfarm	38
Ultra Heat Treated	1
	<hr/>
	108
	<hr/>

All the above samples proved to be satisfactory.

OTHER FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES

Cough Linctus	1	Childrens Asprin	1
Lemon curd	1	Condensed milk	1
Bacon	1	Margarine	1
Marzipan	1	Tonic	1
Ground Almonds	1	Jam	1
Beef Sausage meat	1	Breakfast food	1
Margarine	1	Mixed dried herbs	1
Double cream	1	Cheese spread	1
Sedative cough linctus	1	Tomato ketchup	1
Vitamin tablets	1	Butter	1
Full fat soft cheese	2	Apricot chutney	1
Jam	1	Mild beer	1
Glucose	1	Aspirin tablets	1
Rheumatism pills	1	S.R. Flour	1
Wholemeal bread	1	Corned beef	1
Mustard Piccalilli	1	Throat lozenges	1
Macaroni	1	Cream of chicken soup	1
Tomato ketchup	1	Almond marzipan	1
Soup powder	1	Beef suet	1
Pain relief tablets	1	Cheese	1
Throat pastilles	1	Dehydrated parsley flakes	1
			<hr/>
			43
			<hr/>

All the above samples proved to be satisfactory.

A complaint was received regarding Macaroni which was found to contain and was attacked by insects. Legal proceedings were instituted against the vendors who were fined £1 with £14 14s. Od. costs.

In addition to the above, a complaint was made regarding a Beef Patty which contained a cluster of hairs. A warning letter was sent to the manufacturers.

Also a complaint was made that a Fruit Pie was mouldy. Legal proceedings were instituted against the vendor who was fined £5 5s. Od. with £8 8s. Od. costs.

A complaint was made at the end of the year that a pork pie was mouldy and legal proceedings were to be instituted against the vendors.

A tin of peaches supplied to a school kitchen were found to contain a stone. A representative of the importers was interviewed and it was confirmed that the matter was being taken up with the canners in the country of origin.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (SPECIFIED AREAS) ORDER 1960

	<u>Samples Obtained</u>	<u>Phosphatase Test</u>		<u>Methylene Blue Test</u>			<u>Turbidity Test</u>
		<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Passed</u>	<u>Failed</u>	<u>Void</u>	
Pasteurised	143	142	1	131	2	10	
Channel Island Pasteurised	43	43	-	39	2	2	
Sterilised	16						16
Untreated Bottled	8			5	2	1	
Untreated Channel Island Bottled	1			1	-	-	
Untreated Farm Bottled	17			11	2	4	
Untreated Channel Island Farm Bottled	21			18	1	2	
	<u>249</u>						

The Phosphatase failure was processed out of the County and a warning letter was sent to the firm concerned.

Warning letters were sent in respect of the Methylene Blue failures and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food notified of the failures in respect of the Untreated Farm Bottled Samples.

SECTION 'F'

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year:-

Measles	114
Whooping Cough	11
Food Poisoning	8
Acute Pneumonia	4
Dysentery	2
Scarlet Fever	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	<u>1</u>
	<u>141</u>

Apart from Measles which was prevalent during the second and third quarters of the year, the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases was pleasingly low.

During the latter half of 1968 vaccination against Measles became available throughout the Country for all susceptible children up to the age of 15 years. It is hoped by this means to diminish greatly, if not to eradicate, a hitherto almost inevitable childhood illness which causes a great deal of suffering and can lead to serious complications.

Only one new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis was notified. There was one death from this disease and one from non-respiratory Tuberculosis during the year.

THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(a) Factories in which Secs. 1-4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Factories not included in (a) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	81	16	Nil	Nil
(c) Other premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	81	16	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Unsufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	4	2	Nil	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK (Sections 110 & 111)

There was one outworker notified in the District during the year, employed in embroidery.

